



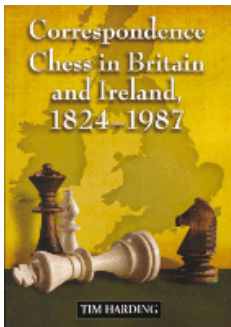
COLUMNISTS

From the Archives

Hosted by
Mark Donlan



Translate this page



Play through and download
the games from

[ChessCafe.com](#) in the
[ChessBase Game Viewer](#).

From the Archives...

Since it came online in 1996, [ChessCafe.com](#) has presented thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. This high quality material remains available in the [ChessCafe.com Archives](#). However, we decided that the occasional selection from the archives posted publicly online might be a welcomed addition to the regular fare.

Watch for an item to be posted online periodically throughout each month. We will update the [ChessCafe.com](#) home page whenever there has been a "new" item posted here. We hope you enjoy *From the Archives*...

The Kibitzer by Tim Harding

The Kibitzer Goes To War

There are two annual weekend tournaments in Ireland that attract masters from Britain. A few months ago I wrote about the Kilkenny tournament held in early December each year; the other is Bunratty, played each February in the small tourist-oriented village a few miles from Shannon International Airport. Bunratty is often the first port of call for American tourists, with its famous castle (where mediaeval-style banquets are held regularly) and its folk village (where you can admire and buy Irish craft works and see how life went on in the traditional Irish cottage before the days of electrification).

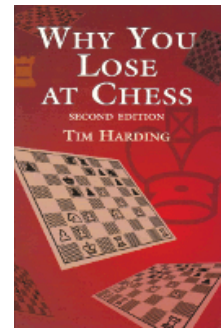
Kilkenny, being nearer to Dublin, attracts the larger entry but players have to put up with fairly uncomfortable and surroundings; for many players that is its charm and they enjoy the social occasion more than the chess. The calm and fairly luxurious surroundings of Fitzpatrick's Bunratty Shamrock Hotel make for a different style of tournament; the hotel rooms are better and there is a swimming pool and fitness centre for families. With the stormy weather you are liable to get in February in the west of Ireland it's very necessary!

This year there were three six-round tournaments held over the weekend February 14-16, with twenty players contesting the Bunratty Masters. A rating of 1900 was required to get in the tournament and in fact the field included three FIDE GMs (including Russian-born Alexander Baburin who now lives here and played top board for Ireland in the 1996 Olympiad), two IMs and two Irish National Masters plus one of the top players in the Irish Ladies team, plus myself. So there were no easy games and it is not surprising that the eventual joint winners could score only four and a half points.

The rate of play deserves a mention, since although it is standard in Ireland (except for local leagues and the national championship), it may differ from what readers are accustomed to. In the masters section, you have one hour, forty-five minutes to complete all your moves in the game, with special blitz rules coming into operation when you are down to under five minutes on the clock, provided that you have made forty moves by then. I greatly dislike this format, and Jonathan Speelman (one of the GMs at Bunratty this year) said "It's like an axe hanging over your head."

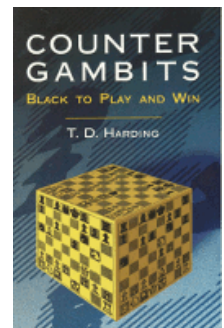
I much prefer the old method of forty (or thirty-five) moves in ninety minutes followed by a fifteen-minute blitz finish, but this was unpopular with tournament controllers as it requires the clock to be wound back precisely fifteen minutes when the players complete the first time control. However, it is more like real chess to have a genuine time control before the blitz, and in

Purchases from our
[chess shop](#) help keep
[ChessCafe.com](#) freely
accessible:



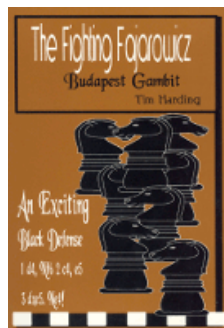
Why You Lose at Chess

by Tim Harding



Counter Gambits

by Tim Harding



The Fighting Fajarowicz

by Tim Harding



fact that makes it more likely games will finish in under the full allotted time for the session, since a good many games will be decided at the first control.

The new generation of digital clocks should make it possible to pre-program a time control of this kind without requiring any wind-back so maybe in a few years we shall see the superior time control reinstated. However, this year there were just two Saitek digital clocks in use at Bunnratty; unfortunately, board three was the highest I got to so I didn't have the chance to try one. A warning, however: the clock shows a countdown of time remaining in hours and minutes until you get within your last five minutes. So when you have 320 or 340 seconds left it is showing "00.05" but then suddenly it will jump to "04.59" and start counting you down to extinction.

In the first round the top half of the draw (on ratings) played the bottom half so there were few surprises but Round Two proved a fairly successful round for the Irish players against the visitors, except that I was squashed by the new Scottish star, IM Jonathan Rowson. Speelman got into enormous trouble against Mel O'Kinneide, who had played on the Irish team in the Moscow olympiad. Speelman had about eight minutes to Mel's four but used up nearly all his time advantage trying to find a way to save his weak pawns. By the time Black broke through, he had only a minute left and rejected the best way to win a pawn with a winning endgame. Instead he chose a simplifying line that gave Speelman little alternative but to accept the accompanying draw offer. Speelman's rivals were disgusted that Black hadn't gone for the win but in Mel's place, against a former world championship candidate, a lot of us would have done the same. Unfortunately the final stages of this game were not in the bulletins. The problem is that these blitz finishes were not all recorded on the scoresheets and if one was still playing (I was busy losing to O'Kinneide) it wasn't possible to record the moves; the bulletin editor really needs to take that responsibility on himself.

In the same round, Edinburgh-based Irish IM Dr. Mark Orr defeated the other GM visitor.

Orr, Mark (2360) – King, Daniel (2535)

Bunnratty Masters op (2), 1997

French Defence [C02]

1 d4 e6 2 e4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Nf3 Bd7 6 a3 f6 7 Bd3 Qc7 8 Bf4 0-0-0 9 0-0 c4 10 Bc2



[FEN "2kr1bnr/ppqb2pp/2n1pp2/3pP3/2pP1B2/P1P2N2/1PB2PPP/RN1Q1RK1 b - - 0 10"]

Aiming to open the b-file when sparks can fly as usual with opposite-side castled kings. Rather than try to hold up the advance with....Na5, Black gets on with his own counterplay. **10...h6 11 b3 g5 12 Be3 f5 13 a4 cxb3 14 Bxb3 Na5 15 Na3 Bxa3 16 Rxa3 Ne7 17 Bc2 Nc4 18 Ra2 Be8 19 Ne1 f4 20 Bc1 Bg6 21 Bxg6 Nxc6 22 Nc2 h5 23 Na3 a6 24 Nxc4 dxc4 25 Ba3 Qc6 26 Re1 Nh4**



[FEN "2kr3r/1p6/p1q1p3/4P1pp/P1pP1p1n/B1P5/R4PPP/3QR1K1 w - - 0 27"]

Threatening mate on g2 and planning a sacrificial follow-up. **27 f3 g4?** Black thinks he is getting a strong attack but 27...Nf5 or 27...Rd7 look safer. **28 Be7! Nxf3+** The point, but it's unsound. **29 gxf3 Rdg8 30 Kh1 gxf3 31 Rf2 Rg2 32 Rxf2 fxf2+ 33 Kg1 Qd5 34 Bh4** The blockade means that the bishop is much better than the pawns and the one on g2 just protects White's king! **34... Kd7 35 Qb1 f3 36 Qg6 Kc6 37 Qg7 Rb8?** There is no active square for the rook but 37...Rc8 was better. **38 Qe7** The start of a neat finishing manoeuvre. **38...Rc8 39 Rb1 Rc7 40 Qe8+ Qd7** Now comes the *coup-de-grace*. **41 d5+ 1-0**



[FEN "4Q3/1prq4/p1k1p3/3PP2p/P1 p4B/2P2p2/6pP/1R4K1 b - - 0 41"]

Black resigned, for if 41...Kc5 (41...exd5 42 Qg6+ mates: 42...Kc5 43 Qb6#; or 41...Kxd5 42 Rd1+ wins the queen) 42 Qf8+ mates; e.g., 42...Kxd5 43 Qxf3 + Kc5 (43...Kxe5 44 Bg3#) 44 Bf2+ Qd4 45 Bxd4#.

Then the visitors started to fight back. In Round Three King got on the winning trail by beating Baburin and in Round Five Speelman beat Orr after being held to a draw by Rowson..

Since I play correspondence chess almost exclusively these days, and am very busy editing my new *Chess Mail* magazine, I found I was very rusty for over-the-board play. Having decided in advance to try some new openings instead of my normal repertoire was probably a mistake, in retrospect. My own moment of fun came in Round Four:

Connolly, Suzanne – Harding, Tim (2225)

Bunratty Masters op (4), 1997

Ruy Lopez [C63]

1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 e5 3 Bb5 f5



[FEN "r1bqkbnr/pppp2pp/2n5/1B2pp2/4P3/5N2/PPPP1PPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 0 4"]

A good psychological move for the Saturday night round, which meets with a timid reaction. Unfortunately I know almost zero about the Jaenisch/Schliemann and after 4 d3 (instead of the normal 4 Nc3), it was absolutely zero. **4 d3 d6?** Black should play 4...fxe4 5 dxe4 Nf6. **5 Bc4** Even after this tempo sacrifice, which cannot be White's best, I am still worse but I misjudged this and played an abominable pseudo-active move. **5...Qf6? 6 Nc3** Of course. Now after 6...Nge7 simply 7 Nb5 would force a groveling king move. **6...Be6 7 Bxe6?!** I was more worried about 7 Nd5. **7...Qxe6 8 exf5?** This throws away any last vestige of advantage for White. **8...Qxf5 9 Nd5 0-0-0 10 0-0 Nf6 11 Ne3 Qd7 12 c4**



[FEN "2kr1b1r/pppq2pp/2np1n2/4p3/2P5/3PNN2/PP3PPP/R1BQ1RK1 b - - 0 12"]

Black now plays a good move. My bishop looks bad and White appears to be gathering a storm on the queenside but in three moves the whole picture changes. **12...g6! 13 Qa4?** This loses a tempo because Black is never obliged to play...Kb8. **13...Bg7 14 Rb1 e4 15 dxe4 Nxe4** Now White saw that b4 cannot be played because of...Nc3. She said afterwards that she should have developed her bishop at move thirteen. **16 Qc2 Rde8 17 b4 Rhf8 18 b5** Just in time, as Black seriously intended to play...Rxf3 followed by ...Qh3 and...Ng5 with a murderous attack. **18...Nd4 19 Nxd4 Bxd4 20 Rb3 Qe6** Among other things, this provides a flight square for the K at d7, but the main point is to guard the knight and so relieve the rook for other duties (see move twenty-two). **21 Rd3 Bb6 22 a4** Black must bring more pressure to bear before White can organise a4-a5. The idea is to double or even treble on the f-file. **22...Rf7 23 Nd1??** Apparently protecting f2 still further (with a view to Be3) but actually having the opposite effect. I was looking for a Nxf2 combination all the time but it didn't work until now. It was virtually the first reply that occurred to me but a horrible shock for White. 23 f3 was the least evil. Black has no immediate winning plan then, although Ref8 is possible to maintain the knight on e4 until the bishops are exchanged, after which c5 beckons.



[FEN "2k1r3/ppp2r1p/1b1pq1p1/1P6/P1P1n3/
3R4/2Q2PPP/2BN1RK1 b - - 0 23"]

23...Nxf2! 24 Be3 Nxd1! 0-1 Even stronger than Nxd3 which she expected; that wins an exchange but Nxd1 wins a piece and/or mates. If 25 Bxb6 (25 Rxf7 Nxe3), 25...Rxf1+ 26 Kxf1 Qe1# so White resigned.

After Round Four, the leaders had three points and I was in a group half a point behind. Round Five was played on the Sunday morning. Orr lost to Speelman while King obtained two bishops against a rook against Rowson in a simplified position. Finally King beat the Scot with about five seconds left on his clock. I lost to O'Cinneide so that was the end of my challenge.

In the last round. King and Speelman agreed a GM draw to finish on 4½/6 leaving O'Cinneide the chance to beat Baburin and finish as sole winner with 5, or Baburin to win and join them in a tie for first. The Novgorod-born Irish GM tried hard but in the end he did not have enough advantage to win so the professionals' cynical decision to sign peace after eighteen moves was vindicated.

Returning to the OTB battlefield after a long break is tough for correspondence players, especially those of us over forty. The problem is that it's addictive and even if you do not do well, you feel that next time, with a bit more practice and openings preparation, it will be different. For the time being, however, it's back to kibitzing!

© ChessCafe.com. All Rights Reserved.

This article first appeared at ChessCafe.com in March 1997.

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[ChessCafe Archives\]](#)
[\[ChessCafe Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About ChessCafe.com\]](#)
[\[Contact ChessCafe.com\]](#)

© 2011 BrainGamz, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
"ChessCafe.com®" is a registered trademark of BrainGamz, Inc.